

Abstract of the Disclosure

Conduits are provided to direct blood flow from the left ventricle to a coronary artery at a location distal to a blockage in the coronary artery.

Threaded and nonthreaded conduits are delivered using a guidewire delivered through the posterior and anterior walls of a coronary artery and into the heart wall. A dilator may be provided over the guidewire into the heart wall, and the conduit delivered over the dilator. An introducer sleeve may be provided over the dilator into the heart wall, the dilator removed, and the conduit delivered through the introducer sleeve. A hollow needle also may be inserted into the posterior and anterior walls of the coronary artery prior to inserting the guidewire.

A depth measuring tool may determine the appropriate length of the conduit prior to delivery. The depth measuring tool can include the hollow needle with an access port on a proximal end of the needle and an opening on the distal end of the needle in flow communication with the access port so that when the needle is inserted through the heart wall and into the heart chamber, blood flow through the opening.